

AFRICA NEWS REPORT



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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AEF501 01/02/2004

President Bush Issues African Growth and Opportunity Act Proclamation

(Angola deemed eligible under AGOA -- Central African Republic and Eritrea not eligible) (1210)

In a proclamation issued December 30, President Bush included Angola on a list of countries eligible for trade preferences under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), while dropping the Central African Republic and Eritrea from that list.

The Central African Republic and Eritrea, according to the White House document, were cut from the list because they did not meet eligibility requirements.

Countries are deemed eligible for the trade preferences based on criteria such as progress toward a market-based economy, reforms, and their embrace of democratic principles.

Following is the text of the proclamation:

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

December 30, 2003

To Take Certain Actions Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and for Other Purposes

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), as added by section 111(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (title I of Public Law 106-200) (AGOA), authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a "beneficiary sub-Saharan African country" if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements set forth in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), as well as the eligibility criteria set forth in section 502 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462).

2. Section 104 of the AGOA authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA as an "eligible sub-Saharan African country" if the President determines that the country meets certain eligibility requirements.

3. Section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)(B)) provides special rules for certain apparel articles imported from "lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries."

4. In Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000, President Clinton designated the State of Eritrea (Eritrea) and the Central African Republic as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries pursuant to section 506A(a) of the 1974 Act and provided that they would be considered lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

5. Section 506A(a)(3) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(3)) authorizes the President to terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of section 506A if he determines that the country is not making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, effective on January 1 of the year following the year in which such determination is made.

6. Pursuant to section 104 of the AGOA and section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the Republic of Angola (Angola) meets the eligibility requirements set forth or referenced therein, and I have

decided to designate Angola as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

7. Angola satisfies the criterion for treatment as a "lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country" under section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA.

8. Pursuant to section 506A(a)(3) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Eritrea and the Central African Republic are not making continual progress in meeting the requirements described in section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, I have decided to terminate the designation of Eritrea and the Central African Republic as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for purposes of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective on January 1, 2004.

9. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

10. Section 203(e)(2)(A) of the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(2)(A)), requires the President to publish in the Federal Register notice of any action he proposes to take under section 203(e)(1) of the ATPA (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)) at least 30 days before taking the action. Section 212(e)(2)(A) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as amended (CBERA) (19 U.S.C. 2702(e)(2)(A)), requires the President to publish in the Federal Register notice of any action he proposes to take under section 212(e)(1) of the CBERA (19 U.S.C. 2702(e)(1)) at least 30 days before taking the action. Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, provided for the assignment of a publication function under these sections to the United States Trade Representative (USTR), but did not precisely specify the function assigned.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 506A and 604 of the 1974 Act, section 104 of the AGOA, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, do proclaim that:

(1) Angola is designated as an eligible sub-Saharan African country and as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence in the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries "Republic of Angola."

(3) For purposes of section 112(b)(3)(B) of the AGOA, Angola is a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(4) The designation of Eritrea and the Central African Republic as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries for purposes of section 506A of the 1974 Act is terminated, effective on January 1, 2004.

(5) In order to reflect in the HTS that beginning January 1, 2004, Eritrea and the Central African Republic shall no longer be designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, general note 16(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting "State of Eritrea" and "Central African Republic" from the list of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Further, note 2(d) to subchapter XIX of chapter 98 of the HTS is modified by deleting "State of Eritrea" and "Central African Republic" from the list of lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

(6) The modification to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2004.

(7) In order to assign to the USTR the publication function set forth in section 203(e)(2)(A) of the ATPA and section 212(e)(2)(A) of the CBERA, paragraph (3) of Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002, is revised by deleting the phrase "of this proclamation" and inserting in lieu thereof the phrase "of an action he proposes to take."

(8) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF502 01/02/2004

Secretary of State Powell Describes "What We Will Do in 2004"

(Op-ed column from the New York Times) (1190)

(This byliner by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell first appeared in the New York Times January 1, 2004, and is in the public domain. No republication restrictions.)

(begin byliner)

What We Will Do in 2004

By Colin L. Powell

Washington — As we Americans turn the last page of our calendars, many of us are moved to review the achievements of the year gone by and to make resolutions for the year ahead. This can be a frustrating business if one dwells on subjects like exercise and dieting, but the twin task of stock-taking and resolution-making is a worthy discipline — and not just for individuals.

We in the Bush administration have also taken stock and made resolutions. We do so with confidence because President Bush's vision is clear and right: America's formidable power must continue to be deployed on behalf of principles that are simultaneously American, but that are also beyond and greater than ourselves.

We resolve, of course, to expand freedom, and we are focused in particular on Afghanistan and Iraq. The Afghan people now have a constitution, a rapidly advancing market economy, and new hope as they look toward national elections. The aspirations of a free and talented Iraqi nation are also taking wing, now that Saddam Hussein's murderous and dangerous regime is no more. We are working to return sovereignty to the Iraqi people through a fair and open process and to ensure that the country receives the maximum feasible debt relief. As the Coalition Provisional Authority closes its doors on June 30, in accord with the Nov. 15 transition plan, we will open an embassy in Baghdad.

While our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq will continue in 2004, we are resolved as well to turn the president's goal of a free and democratic Middle East into a reality. We will expand the Middle East Partnership Initiative to encourage political, economic and educational reform throughout the region. We will also stand by the Iranian people, and others living under oppressive regimes, as they strive for freedom.

This struggle will not be confined to the Middle East. We are working for the advent of a free Cuba, and toward democratic reform in other countries whose people are denied liberty. And we are resolved to support the young democracies that have risen in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The consolidation of freedom in many new but often fragile democracies will shape the aspirations of people everywhere, assuring that the 21st century will be a century of liberty worldwide.

Our efforts will apply to individuals as well as nations. In 2003 we freed thousands from oppression through President Bush's program to combat human trafficking — whether for prostitution or

forced labor or to turn children into soldiers. We have saved lives and redeemed the enslaved, and we will do more in 2004. Also in 2004, the president's plan for H.I.V. and AIDS relief will help free millions worldwide from the devastation of this horrible disease.

We resolve to promote prosperity, too. A new international consensus is helping poorer countries develop themselves through good governance, sound economic, trade and environmental policies and wise investments in their people. The centerpiece of our program for development, to be started in 2004, is the Millennium Challenge Account — an incentive system that makes assistance contingent on political and economic reform.

We also made important strides in 2003 toward a more open international trade and investment climate, signing free trade pacts with Chile, Singapore and the countries of Central America. In 2004 the president will lead the effort to reinvigorate our global free trade strategy, and to advance regional and bilateral free trade as opportunities arise. His proposal to develop a Middle East free trade agreement is high on the agenda.

We are resolved, as well, for peace. Freedom cannot flourish and prosperity cannot advance without security, and this we are determined to achieve. Americans are safer as 2004 begins than they were a year ago. Afghanistan is no longer a devil's playground for terrorists, nor is Iraq an incubator for weapons of mass murder that could have fallen into terrorists' hands.

Al Qaeda remains a great danger — the main reason for our current heightened security posture. But its members are increasingly on the run, in hiding, in jail or dead. Its finances and communications are being disrupted, and closer intelligence and law enforcement cooperation among peace-loving countries is making headway against terrorist plots.

Iran has felt our sustained pressure and that of our allies to come clean on its nuclear weapons program, and has begun to do so. And Libya has renounced terrorism and weapons of mass destruction thanks to the president's robust counter-proliferation strategy and bold British and American diplomacy. In our own hemisphere, narco-traffickers and terrorists are on the defensive thanks to strong United States support for a resolute Colombian government.

The war on terrorism remains our first priority, but success in that war depends on constructive ties among the world's major powers. These we pursue without respite; America's relations with Russia, China and India all improved in 2003. Ties with allies old and new have been strengthened as well, despite the growing pains of adjustment to a new era. Indeed, both NATO and the European Union will expand this year, which is good news for international security.

Our partnerships remain strong as do the institutions of international cooperation. We will rely on both to advance freedom, prosperity and peace in 2004. As we work to restore a liberated Iraq to its people, we invite the United Nations and the international community to help Iraqis establish a new citadel of free minds and free markets in the Middle East. With our NATO allies we will support the Afghan people as they heal their wounds and chart their future.

With China, Japan, Russia and South Korea we will continue to tackle the problem of North Korea's dangerous nuclear weapons programs. We seek peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula, but we will not reward threats from Pyongyang or provide incentive for blackmail. With our quartet partners — the United Nations, the European Union and Russia — we will help Israelis and Palestinians achieve peace, so that a free Palestine will exist alongside a secure and democratic Jewish state in Israel.

We are resolved, too, to share the burden to bring longstanding conflicts in Sudan, Liberia, Northern Ireland and elsewhere to an end. Such achievements will build momentum for the success of American diplomacy worldwide.

Freedom, prosperity and peace are not separate principles, or separable policy goals. Each reinforces the other, so serving any one requires an integrated policy that serves all three. The challenges are many, for the world is full of trouble. But it is also full of opportunities, and we are resolved to seize every one of them. If some of us drop a few pounds in the process, that's O.K., too.

(Colin L. Powell is the Secretary of State of the United States.)

(end byliner)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF101 12/22/2003

U.S. Labor Secretary Launches HIV/AIDS Initiative in Ghana (Chao also visits Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin) (490) Washington -- U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao December 20 helped launch the Ghana HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Project as part of a \$9.5 million Department of Labor grant to the International Labor Organization (ILO) to develop a program for HIV/AIDS prevention education and workplace policy.

The Secretary spoke at the closing session of the two-day workshop launching the project. The launch was part of Secretary Chao's December 16-21 visit to Africa to highlight continuing efforts to end the worst forms of child labor, including using children as soldiers and trafficking in children, and to promote programs in the workplace to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. While in Africa, Chao also visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Benin.

"President George W. Bush has demonstrated his commitment to fight the pandemic of HIV/AIDS by devoting an unprecedented amount of resources totaling \$15 billion," said Secretary Chao. A press release of Chao's remarks was published in Washington.

"Africa is one of the worst hit areas of the pandemic and I am in Ghana to announce a tranche (portion) of this grant to launch the HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Project. Working together, I know we can help educate workers at the workplace to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS," Chao told her audience.

The Ghana HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Project's goal is to prevent HIV/AIDS in the workplace by increasing workplace protection and thus reducing the impact of the disease on people, communities and countries. Administered by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the three-year program will support national authorities in implementing a workforce HIV/AIDS prevention and education program and policies to address discrimination against those infected with the disease.

Under the leadership of President Bush, the United States has launched an emergency relief effort to fight the HIV/AIDS and committed \$15 billion over the next five years to help turn the tide against HIV in the most afflicted nations of Africa and the Caribbean. The goals of the initiative are to prevent seven million new infections, treat two million HIV-infected people, and care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans.

Since 2001, the Labor Department's HIV/AIDS Workplace Initiative has received \$29 million, which now supports 21 projects in 25 countries to reduce HIV/AIDS in Africa and around the world.

Today, 42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. Some experts estimate that in Africa's hardest hit countries, as many as one in five working-age adults are infected with HIV -- one of the greatest social, labor and economic challenges of our time -- and has taken the lives of more than 20 million people.

AIDS has had a devastating effect on economic development and has deprived many workers of the most productive years of their lives, forcing many children to work to support their families.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF102 12/22/2003

U.S. Labor Secretary Visits with Victims of Child Trafficking in Ghana

(Chao also visits Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin) (610) Washington -- U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao December 20 met with children at the Kokrobite primary school outside of Accra, Ghana, many of who have been the victims of child trafficking -- exploitative labor and the sex trade -- earlier in their lives.

The visit and tour was part of Secretary Chao's December 16-21 visit to Africa to highlight continuing efforts to end the worst forms of child labor -- including using children as soldiers and trafficking in children -- and to promote programs in the workplace to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

"President George W. Bush has called child trafficking æa special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life -- an underground of brutality and lonely fear,' and he has urged all governments to end this evil," Secretary Chao told those gathered at the school. "The world community must come together to stop the tragedy of child trafficking. Children are the future of any country and they must be nurtured and protected," she said.

Secretary Chao's remarks were made available to the press in Washington.

During Secretary Chao's visit, she met with nearly 50 children who have been victims of trafficking. In addition to children from Kokrobite, Secretary Chao also visited with students from five schools in nearby villages. The children were trafficked hours away from their home to the Volta Lake region to work in the fishing industry, as divers, net casters and assistants to local fishermen. They were recently returned home, many through a Ministry of Women and Children campaign known as "Bring Your Child Back Home."

The Department of Labor (DOL) through the International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) supports the Kokrobite primary school, located in the Kokrobite Village just outside of Accra.

The Parent and Child Foundation, a local non-governmental organization, runs the school. The foundation pays for students' school fees, provides schoolbooks, supplies and uniforms. Students receive primary education in a number of subjects, including English, Math, Science, Environmental Studies, World Religions and Vocational Skills. Currently, there are approximately 300 students in grades 1-6 enrolled in the school. Children attend classes six hours a day Monday through Friday. The school has an active Parent Teacher Association.

In addition to Kokrobite, the DOL-ILO-IPEC trafficking project provides education to trafficked children in a number of

other villages in Ghana. In total, the project aims to assist hundreds of children who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked for exploitative labor. The project in Ghana is part of a larger DOL-funded nine-country ILO-IPEC program in Africa against child trafficking for exploitative employment.

Since 1995, the U.S. Department of Labor has received \$313 million to fund international projects aimed at preventing and eliminating the worst forms of child labor. The department has already obligated \$275 million of the money received for child labor projects in more than 60 countries. These projects are designed to remove children from hazardous work environments and exploitive conditions, to provide educational opportunities for child laborers and to conduct research and raise awareness about the child labor issue.

The United States is a signatory to ILO Convention No. 182, which condemns the trafficking of children as one of the worst forms of child labor and calls upon countries to assist one another in eliminating all adverse forms of child labor as a matter of urgency.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF103 12/22/2003

President Bush Welcomes Libyan Decision to End WMD Programs

(Says abandonment will lead to better relations with U.S.) (1120) President Bush announced that he had received a commitment from Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Ghadafi to disclose and dismantle all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs in Libya.

Speaking in Washington December 19, Bush said that with the decision, Libya "has begun the process of rejoining the community of nations," and he hoped other leaders would find an example in the announcement.

"Leaders who abandon the pursuit of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, and the means to deliver them, will find an open path to better relations with the United States and other free nations," he said.

Bush said Ghadafi had agreed "immediately and unconditionally" to allow international weapons inspectors into Libya to account for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and oversee their elimination.

The president said the commitment came after nine months of "quiet diplomacy" with U.S. and British officials after Ghadafi informed both governments of his intention to "make a decisive change in the policy of his government," and directed Libyan officials to provide information on the country's WMD programs to intelligence officials from the two countries.

"As the Libyan government takes these essential steps and demonstrates its seriousness, its good faith will be returned. Libya can regain a secure and respected place among the nations and over time achieve far better relations with the United States," he said.

Following is a transcript of the president's remarks:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

December 19, 2003

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

The James S. Brady Briefing Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. I have called you here today to announce a development of great importance in our continuing effort to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Today

in Tripoli, the leader of Libya, Colonel Moammar al-Ghadafi, publicly confirmed his commitment to disclose and dismantle all weapons of mass destruction programs in his country. He has agreed immediately and unconditionally to allow inspectors from international organizations to enter Libya. These inspectors will render an accounting of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and will help oversee their elimination. Colonel Ghadafi's commitment, once it is fulfilled, will make our country more safe and the world more peaceful.

Talks leading to this announcement began about nine months ago when Prime Minister Tony Blair and I were contacted through personal envoys by Colonel Ghadafi. He communicated to us his willingness

to make a decisive change in the policy of his government. At the direction of Colonel Ghadafi, himself, Libyan officials have provided American and British officers with documentation on that country's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic missile programs and activities. Our experts in these fields have met directly with Libyan officials to learn additional details.

Opposing proliferation is one of the highest priorities of the war against terror. The attacks of September the 11th, 2001 brought tragedy to the United States and revealed a future threat of even greater magnitude. Terrorists who killed thousands of innocent people would, if they ever gained weapons of mass destruction, kill hundreds of thousands -- without hesitation and without mercy. And this danger is dramatically increased when regimes build or acquire weapons of mass destruction and maintain ties to terrorist groups.

The United States and our allies are applying a broad and active strategy to address the challenges of proliferation, through diplomacy and through the decisive actions that are sometimes needed. We've enhance our intelligence capabilities in order to trace dangerous weapons activities. We've organized a proliferation security initiative to interdict dangerous materials and technologies in transit. We've insisted on multilateral approaches like that in North Korea to confront threats. We are supporting the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency to hold the Iranian regime to its treaty obligations.

We obtained an additional United Nations Security Council Resolution requiring Saddam Hussein to prove that he had disarmed, and when that resolution was defied, we led a coalition to enforce it. All of these actions by the United States and our allies have sent an unmistakable message to regimes that seek or possess weapons of mass destruction. Those weapons do not bring influence or prestige. They bring isolation and otherwise unwelcome consequences.

And another message should be equally clear: leaders who abandon the pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and the means to deliver them, will find an open path to better relations with the United States and other free nations. With today's announcement by its leader, Libya has begun the process of rejoining the community of nations. And Colonel Ghadafi knows the way forward. Libya should carry out the commitments announced today. Libya should also fully engage in the war against terror. Its government, in response to the United Nations Security Council Lockerbie demands, has already renounced all acts of terrorism and pledged cooperation in the international fight against terrorism. We expect Libya to meet these commitments, as well.

As the Libyan government takes these essential steps and demonstrates its seriousness, its good faith will be returned. Libya can regain a secure and respected place among the nations, and over time, achieve far better relations with the United States. The Libyan people are heirs to an ancient and respected culture, and

their country lies at the center of a vital region. As Libya becomes a more peaceful nation, it can be a source of stability in Africa and the Middle East.

Should Libya pursue internal reform, America will be ready to help its people to build a more free and prosperous country. Great Britain shares this commitment, and Prime Minister Blair and I welcome today's declaration by Colonel Ghaddafi. Because Libya has a troubled history with America and Britain, we will be vigilant in ensuring its government lives up to all its responsibilities. Yet, as we have found with other nations, old hostilities do not need to go on forever. And I hope that other leaders will find an example in Libya's announcement today.

Our understanding with Libya came about through quiet diplomacy. It is a result, however, of policies and principles declared to all. Over the last two years, a great coalition of nations has come together to oppose terror and to oppose the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We've been clear in our purposes. We have shown resolve. In word and in action, we have clarified the choices left to potential adversaries. And when leaders make the wise and responsible choice, when they renounce terror and weapons of mass destruction, as Colonel Ghaddafi has now done, they serve the interest of their own people and they add to the security of all nations.

Thank you.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF104 12/22/2003

U.S. Security Strategy Induced Libya to Give up WMD Programs

(White House fact sheet on steps taken by Ghaddafi government) (890)

The White House said Libya's December 19 announcement that it will dismantle its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD) is a result of President Bush's national security strategy to give regimes a choice between pursuing such weapons at great cost or renouncing them and rejoining the international community.

According to a fact sheet released December 19, Libya disclosed "significant information" on its WMD programs to the United States and the United Kingdom, and pledged to take a number of steps, including the admission of international inspectors and monitors to verify the end of its WMD-related activities.

"These actions have sent an unmistakable message to regimes that seek or possess WMD: these weapons do not bring influence or prestige -- they only bring isolation and other unwelcome consequences. When leaders make the wise and reasonable choice to renounce terror and WMD, they serve the interests of their own people and add to the security of all nations," said the fact sheet.

Following is the text of the White House fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

December 19, 2003

The President's National Security Strategy to Combat WMD

Libya's Announcement

Libya has disclosed to the US and UK significant information on its nuclear and chemical weapons programs, as well as on its biological and ballistic missile-related activities: Libya has also pledged to:

-- Eliminate all elements of its chemical and nuclear weapons programs;

-- Declare all nuclear activities to the IAEA;

-- Eliminate ballistic missiles beyond 300 km range, with a payload of 500kg;

-- Accept international inspections to ensure Libya's complete adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and sign the Additional Protocol;

-- Eliminate all chemical weapons stocks and munitions, and accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention;

-- Allow immediate inspections and monitoring to verify all of these actions.

As President Bush said today, Libya must also fully engage in the war against terror.

Libya's announcement today is a product of the President's strategy which gives regimes a choice. They can choose to pursue WMD at great peril, cost and international isolation. Or they can choose to renounce these weapons, take steps to rejoin the international community, and have our help in creating a better future for their citizens.

These actions will make our country more safe and the world more peaceful.

There is no greater danger to our people than the nexus of terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. The risks posed by this dangerous nexus cannot be contained or deterred by traditional means. From the beginning of his Administration the President's national security strategy has committed the US to work with its allies to:

-- Ensure that international agreements against the proliferation of WMD are observed and enforced;

-- Detect, disrupt and block the spread of dangerous weapons and technology;

-- Confront emerging threats from any person or state before those threats have fully materialized; and

-- Improve our capabilities to respond to the use of WMD and minimize the consequences of an attack.

The President's national security strategy gives regimes a choice. They can choose to pursue WMD at great peril, cost and international isolation. Or they can choose to renounce these

weapons, take steps to rejoin the international community, and have our help in creating a better future for their citizens.

Libya's announcement today is a product of this strategy. Over the last two years the world community has witnessed our determination to work in partnership with our allies to combat the nexus of terrorism and WMD. Together we have:

-- Enforced UN Security Council resolutions to disarm the Iraqi regime;

-- Removed the terrorist Taliban regime in Afghanistan;

-- Expanded our intelligence capabilities, improved our technology, and increased allied cooperation;

-- Captured or killed key terrorist leaders, disrupted and seized terrorist finances, and destroyed terrorist weapons and training camps;

-- Led the Proliferation Security Initiative to interdict dangerous WMD and their means of delivery.

-- Continued our efforts to secure sensitive technologies in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere;

-- Insisted on a multilateral approach to confront the threat from North Korea; and

-- Supported the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency to hold the Iranian regime to its treaty obligations.

These actions have sent an unmistakable message to regimes that seek or possess WMD: these weapons do not bring influence or prestige -- they only bring isolation and other unwelcome consequences. When leaders make the wise and reasonable choice to renounce terror and WMD, they serve the interests of their own people and add to the security of all nations.

Another message should be equally clear: leaders who abandon the pursuit of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons -- and the means to deliver them -- will find an open path to better relations with the US and other free nations.

Other leaders should find a constructive example in Libya's announcement. Genuine progress by Libya to eliminate its WMD programs will be met by tangible improvements in relations with the world community.

The US and UK have a troubled history with Libya, and serious issues remain. However, Libya has taken a significant step, and with this decision Libya has begun the process of rejoining the international community. As Libya becomes a more peaceful nation, it can be a source of stability in Africa and the Middle East.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

AEF201 12/23/2003

New U.S. Entry-Exit System Aims to Enhance Security, Reduce Fraud

(System "applies equally across the board" to visa holders, says Hutchinson) (1050)

By Anthony Kujawa

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- New entry-exit procedures for visitors traveling on visas to the United States will be fast, effective, enhance security and reduce opportunities for fraud, says Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson.

Developed in response to a congressional mandate, US-VISIT (United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) -- an automated entry/exit system -- will require most visitors traveling on visas to the United States to have two fingers scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken by immigration officials upon entry at U.S. air and seaports starting January 5, 2004.

Briefing on the new technologies at the State Department's Foreign Press Center in Washington December 22, Hutchinson said US-VISIT will enhance security, and increase the integrity of the U.S. immigration system. The automated entry/exit system will be in place at 115 airports and 14 major seaports in early 2004 and will be phased in at U.S. land borders throughout 2005 and 2006.

The goal of US-VISIT, Hutchinson told the reporters, is to enhance the security of the United States while expediting legitimate travel and trade. The program provides the capability to verify the identity of incoming visitors, record the entry and exit of non-U.S. citizens into and out of the United States, and confirm compliance with visa and immigration policies, he said.

"For the first time in history we will be able to biometrically confirm the identity of a visa traveler to the United States," said Hutchinson, explaining the significance of the new security capability.

Under US-VISIT, many of the procedures upon entry and exit to the United States will remain unchanged. Upon entry, he said, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers will continue to

review travel documents, such as a visa and passport, and ask questions about the visitor's stay in the U.S.

But now when an immigration official electronically scans the visa in the visitor's passport, the photo and biographic data collected during the visa application interview will become available on the official's computer. The visitor will then be asked to put one and then the other index finger on a glass plate that will electronically capture two fingerprints. The fingerprints will be run through a database to ensure the visitor is eligible to enter the United States. Visitors also will be photographed. The photo can be taken while fingerprinting is in process.

"This is something that will be done in a very inoffensive manner and it will be done very quickly," said Hutchinson.

With US-VISIT, upon exit from the United States travelers will see automated, self-service kiosks at the international departure areas, where visitors with visas will be asked to scan their travel documents electronically and repeat the fingerprinting process on the inkless device. DHS officials said this process will verify the visitor's identity and departure and will confirm compliance with U.S. immigration policy. The exit confirmation will be added to the visitor's travel records to demonstrate compliance and record the individual's status for future visits to the United States.

The under secretary said the data obtained will be securely stored as part of the visitor's travel record and made available only to authorized officials and selected law enforcement agencies responsible for ensuring the safety and security of U.S. citizens and foreign visitors.

In response to a question on "profiling" of certain national or ethnic groups at points of entry, Hutchinson said that US-VISIT "applies equally across the board" to visa holders who come to the United States, regardless of nationality.

He explained that US-VISIT is designed to avoid reliance upon classification of "broad categories" of people. With the ability to confirm identity biometrically, he said, US-VISIT will facilitate the entry and exit of travelers to the United States and reduce the number of referrals to secondary inspection. If a traveler's name is similar to a name on a terrorist "watch list," for example, Hutchinson said that with US-VISIT's capability to confirm identity, it would not be necessary to refer the traveler for secondary examination.

He added that US-VISIT will "facilitate travel" for frequent travelers whose "biometric" is already in the system and can be confirmed quickly, and who have abided by the terms of their visa when entering and exiting the United States in the past.

When US-VISIT technology was implemented as part of a voluntary pilot project in Atlanta, Hutchinson said many participants mentioned how they were "impressed with the technology" and felt safer.

Asked how US-VISIT affects travelers from the 27 nations who participate in the visa waiver program, Hutchinson explained that visitors from a visa-waiver country who enter the United States on a visa (e.g. a student visa) with the exception of certain diplomatic visas, will be required to have their digital fingerprint and photo taken upon entry.

Hutchinson said international response toward US-VISIT has been favorable, adding that the international standard for passports is moving toward incorporating a "biometric" standard.

"We are not trying to move in isolation. We are trying to move with our international partners," said Hutchinson.

"We want to treat everyone fairly in this regard, be a welcoming nation, and I think that that will be reciprocated," he said.

"All of these entry and exit procedures address our critical need for tighter security and our commitment to expedite travel for the millions of legitimate visitors we welcome each year to conduct business, learn, see family or tour the country," said Hutchinson in an earlier presentation on US-VISIT.

"The U.S. wants to continue to be a welcoming nation," he said.

According to a DHS brochure that describes US-VISIT procedures, "The United States of America is still a nation where diversity is celebrated and people from all over the world are welcome. Today we -- like most other countries -- are working to keep our borders secure while we maintain the freedom to exchange ideas, keep businesses thriving, and enrich lives all over the world."

For more information about the US-VISIT program, visit www.dhs.gov/us-visit.

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